

**PASSIVE VENTRICULAR SUPPORT DEVICES  
AND METHODS OF USING THEM**

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A device for supporting or constraining at least some part of the epicardial surface of the heart during a portion of the heartbeat, such as diastole is used to assist in the treatment of congestive heart failure. The device comprises an enclosure having an interior and an exterior. An interior surface is preferably made in such a way that it tends not to or does not form adhesions with or accept ingrowth with the myocardial tissue of the epicardium. The device may comprise at least one rib-like structural member.

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